

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22601 241954Z

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2612

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22601

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER CHARGE IN PARIS, KENG VANNSAK'S VERSION

REF: PARIS 22410

SUMMARY: KENG VANNSAK VISITED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 24 TO GIVE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO CANCELLATION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT AS CHARGE IN PARIS AND TO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY THAT THIS POST BE FILLED NOW THAT UNESCO CREDENTIALS FIGHT IS ON HORIZON. END SUMMARY.

1. VANNSAK SAID PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET WAS VERY DISTRESSED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED AN INTRIGUE IN PHNOM PENH WHICH HAD RESULTED IN CABLE CANCELLING VANNSAK'S ASSUMPTION OF CHARGE POSITION IN PARIS. HE INTENDED TO CABLE PHNOM PENH TO HAVE THE ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS REINSTATED. ACCORDING TO VANNSAK, LONG BORET BELIEVED THAT THE FABRICATION OF NEWS OF A US/FRENCH CONVERSATION WAS DIRECTED AGAINST HIMSELF AS WELL AS AGAINST VANNSAK; IT WAS MFA INTRIGUING AGAINST CHAMKARMON. ACCORDING  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22601 241954Z

TO VANNSAK, LONG BORET SAID HE WOULD RESIGN IF HE WAS

NOT ABLE TO REINSTATE VANNSAK, SINCE THE MANEUVER WAS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY.

2. VANNSAK SAID THAT MFA SECRETARY GENERAL WAS AN OPPONENT OF LONG BORET'S AND HAD SEIZED ON THIS PROBLEM -- WITH SUPPORT FROM OTHERS -- TO EMBARRASS THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAD SUPPORTED VANNSAK'S CANDIDACY IN THE CABINET MEETING. VANNSAK THOUGHT THAT MANY IN MFA OPPOSED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS NOT "OF THE CAREER" AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THEY THOUGHT HE WOULD STOP THE ABUSES OF THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH FOR CLANDESTINE CORRESPONDENCE AND SMUGGLING AND OTHER CORRUPTION CURRENTLY BEING PRACTICED IN THE KHMER EMBASSY..

3. VANNSAK STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLVING THE QUESTION OF KHMER CHARGE BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING UNESCO CREDENTIALS FIGHT. HE HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAN SOTHI (HEAD OF THE UNESCO DELEGATION) BUT VANNSAK WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO FURTHER THE GRK UNESCO EFFORT UNLESS HE WERE ALSO CHARGE SINCE HE WOULD BE OPPOSED BY THE KHMER PERMREP, ESSARO. HE NOTED ESSARO'S RETURN WAS PROBLEMATIC, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT PAN SOTHI COULD NOT ARRIVE FOR SOME TIME SINCE LONG BORET WOULD BE IN NEW YORK.

4. THE NEAR PARALYSIS IN KHMER EFFORT HERE CONCERNING UNESCO CREDENTIALS WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTTEL. WE WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DESIRABLE THAT PROBLEM OF KHMER CHARGE FOR PARIS BE RESOLVED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DESPITE OUR INSISTANCE THAT THIS IS MATTER BETWEEN GKR AND GOF, WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED AT LEAST TO HEAR VARIOUS VERSIONS OF KHMER INTRIGUES UNTIL SITUATION RESOLVED. EMBOFF DID NOT COMMENT ON KENG'S SELF-SERVING VERSION OF EVENTS AND INTRIGUE EXCEPT TO REPEAT STATEMENT PREVIOUSLY MADE TO LONG BORET THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO GOF/US CONVERSATION CONCERNING KHMER CHARGE.

IRWIN

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